Interest rate for EPF subscribers

2046. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the interest rate fixed for EPF subscribers in the recent meeting held;

(b) whether it is a fact Chat the interest rate has not been increased despite the genuine demands of the subscribers in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government proposes to increase the GPF interest rate in the near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) In its recent meeting held on 4th July, 2009 Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund has recommended interest rate @ 8.5% per annum for 2009-10 for Employees' Provident Fund members. The interest rate on Employees' Provident Fund is based on the estimated income and liability of the Employees' Provident Fund.

(d) to (f) The interest rate on GPF was fixed at 8% for the year 2008-09 and the same has not yet been finalised for the year 2009-10. However, at present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the interest rate on GPF.

Investment in stocks by EPFO

2047.SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has decided to invest 15 per cent of its corpus in stock market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much is this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken by Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to invest its corpus in the stock market.

Cases of violation of Child Labour Act

2048. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of inspections conducted/violations detected/prosecutions launched/ convictions obtained, during last three years, to detect violation of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986;

(b) whether percentage of prosecution and conviction remained very low;

(c) how many have been punished with maximum one year imprisonment; and

(d) whether the above statistics shows a casual/shoddy implementation of above Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Central Government is the appropriate authority for enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in respect of establishments under the control of the Central Government or a railway administration or a major port or a mine or oilfield and in all other cases, the appropriate authority is the State Government. The details showing the inspections conducted, violations detected, prosecutions launched and convictions obtained during the last three years in respect of Central sphere are as follows:-

Year	No. of Inspections	No. of Violations	No. of Prosecution	No. of Convictions
2006-07	1326	2363	01	01
2007-08	2385	3115	04	03
2008-09	2860	2277	102	Nil

(b) The incidence of engagement of child labour being marginal in Central sphere, the prosecutions and convictions remained low.

(c) In no case of conviction the maximum punishment of imprisonment for one year was awarded.

(d) The incidence of employment of child labour in Central sphere is negligible, the number of prosecution is also comparatively on the lower side.

Implementation of RSBY for construction workers

2049.SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any orders for implementation of 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' for construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what response the Government has so far received from different States and U.Ts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) has been extended to all building and other construction workers who are registered under the Building and Other